

## ABSTRACT

Title: Extended Orientation for First-Generation College Students at Ball State University

Student: Courtney Duda

Degree: Master of Arts in Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education

Date: July 2014

Pages: 67

Higher education's retention and graduation of students in the United States has been crucially examined over the last few years. Based on statistical data, and student responses, different programs like orientation, Summer Bridge, First Year Experience, and Residential Living-Learning communities have been established to assist first-year students in the transition between high school and college. These programs assist students in the academic, social, and life skills needed to succeed within the first year of college.

Through research, institutional benchmarking, communication, and a personal reflection, the program was designed to meet the needs of first-generation college students. The purpose of the Expanded Orientation Program at Ball State University would be to provide first-generation college students additional learning resources (i.e., seminars, speaker series, one-on-one meetings, and community engagement) needed to be successful during their collegiate years. By providing the opportunity for first-generation college students to receive the guidance needed to excel, they would have the chance to connect with campus educators who can help them learn how to be successful, while developing into educated persons throughout their journey.